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OF THE

ADVOCATE OF THE PATENTEEES,

INVENTORS OF USEFUL IMPROVEMENTS

IN THE

ARTS AND SCIENCES;

PETITIONERS TO CONGRESS, FOR REDRESS OF
GRIEVANCES.

DELIVERED DECEMBER 19TH, 1806,

BEFORE THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE TO WHOM THEIR
PETITION WAS REFERRED,

IN DEFENCE OF MENTAL PROPERTY.

AN ATTEMPT TO SHEW

The good policy of securing to authors and inventors, the exclusive right
to their writings and discoveries, for a sufficient length of time to
make it their interest to employ their talents in discovering,

AND BRINGING INTO OPERATION,

USEFUL IMPROVEMENTS.

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MR. CHAIRMAN,

I APPEAR before this honorable committee, as an advocate for the patentees, inventors of useful improvements, who have petitioned Congress for redress of grievances.

It had been contemplated to engage counsel learned in the law, and of known and acknowledged abilities, who would have been able to do justice to such an important subject. The expense was to have been defrayed by a small contribution, from each individual patentee; but we have found them, like the oppressed in all nations, sunk into despair, and their spirits broken; for although all believe they are justly entitled to what is petitioned for, yet they have not come forward with the necessary means to attain the end. Therefore necessity has prompted me to undertake a task, for which I am highly sensible I am incapable; I shudder at the apprehension of the important cause being marred under my feeble hand; yet relying on the candor of this honorable body, I shall proceed according to the best of my abilities, begging the indulgence of your honors, and praying that zeal, in a good cause, may be accepted instead of mental abilities and oratorical powers.

I conceive the subject to be the greatest, and most important, that ever engaged legislative attention. The happiness of millions unborn is to be effected by my feeble exertions; because as I shall be able to draw the attention of your honors to this important subject, so will genius be fostered, the arts and sciences flourish, the power and the wealth of the nation increase for ages to come. Yes, I may say the very existence of millions depend on the measures that will be pursued on this occasion; for it is easy to demonstrate that the population of every country is proportionate to the state of the arts, and the state of the arts, to the protection of mental property. This requires no demonstration before such an enlightened body; it is one of the self evident truths, genius produces science and arts, science and arts produce agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, and they support population.

If a husbandman knows that there is one essential plant, which, only, can supply him with the means of cul-

tivating and propagating all other useful plants, and yet he abandons it to the blast of every storm, without a hedge to guard it, subject to be trodden down or rooted up by every beast of the forest, suffering it to seek nourishment in a rude uncultivated soil, its branches to aspire under the oppressive shade of every noxious weed, which extracts the sap from its roots, and yet, notwithstanding, if its natural power shoots forth one luxuriant branch, he lops it off, for immediate use, ere it has time to be matured by age : Would this man be thought possessed of common sense ?

It is in defence of this essential plant that I appear. Genius, the heavenly gift sent by the God of nature to make mankind happy, is abandoned to all the risks and dangers already stated ; yet it is an acknowledged fact, that from genius rises the sciences and arts, without which nothing that we need could be produced. When this plant then, is suffered to wither, and decay, the whole farm is depopulated, and becomes a barren waste ; so that to refuse or neglect to foster, nourish, and cultivate it, must be extreme folly ; but to lop its branches while young, should be esteemed madness.

Men of genius, in this country, are of all others least protected ; they are slighted, embarrassed, and abused, yes, I may say, plundered of the fruits of their labor before they can enjoy them—for the law makes their property common at the end of fourteen years.

You will perhaps ask, how this can be, that we suffer such grievous oppression, and the community be insensible of it ? We answer, because we are few, not one among ten thousand ; we have no weight in the political scale, self interest never operates, to engage any in the defence of our property, because they have none such to be defended ; no one is alarmed at the loss of our mental property, because they have none to lose ; we are at the mercy of the rest of the community—an enslaved, oppressed, dependant class, amidst a free, enlightened, and independant people ; held dependant on the will of the legislature of the nation, for the privilege of enjoying exclusively the fruits of our own labors, who deal those privileges out with a sparing hand, for limited times only, as a gift to us what others hold as a right, is a state of dependance which destroys the very energy of the soul, sinking the mind below the level of dignified humanity, looking forward with anxious dread to the time when the staff of our life is to be broken—willing to end our

career with the expiration of our patent privileges. We often think it prudent to deny ourselves, and fall easily in with the crowd that are running down the fool who is so imprudent as to attempt to do what no man on earth has ever done, and what all think impossible, because they cannot understand it. Who would incur the envy of men, by attempting to act beyond their capacity to comprehend?

Were we in any other country, we would entertain no hopes of obtaining complete redress; because no nation ever did act justly towards men of our class, and none ever will, excepting those who are possessed of true wisdom and foresight; but this we do hope to find in enlightened America, where so many political improvements have already been made. Our government, if once drawn to reflect on this subject seriously, may be expected to deviate from all others in this point also, and be induced to try the experiment of doing justice to us, as well as all other classes, by securing to us for a sufficient length of time our mental property, which we acquire at such dear rates. If they do not, our labors must cease. The act, entitled 'An act to promote the progress of useful arts,' will no longer induce us to spend our time, study, and labor, in the acquisition of property, which that act makes common, even to our persecutors, at the end of fourteen years.

How mortifying must it be, for a man to know that he has conceived distinct ideas of improvements, that would tend to lessen the miseries, and increase the comforts of the whole community—even saving the lives of thousands, and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property, from sinking at sea—but to accomplish which requires expense and exertions greater than prudence will permit him to risk, or he is able to bear, under the existing laws; therefore he must let them lie dormant, and confine himself to ordinary business for support, instead of doing ten thousand times as much good for his country—and see the talents, received from the God of nature to serve his country, buried in earthly rubbish. For what is the labor of an individual to the world? a mere drop in the ocean, a grain of sand in a mountain; while the produce of a real inventive mind would be a lake of navigable water, a mountain of rich mines.

When such presents as these, sent by the giver of all good, are rejected by a country, we may suppose that they will be withheld in future. When it becomes fash-

ionable, in any country, to despise the knowledge of the arts and sciences as mean, and unworthy the attention of elevated minds, the rising generation refuse to learn what their forefathers had acquired; thus in a few generations the whole may be lost.

How many instances have there been of nations sinking into ignorance and barbarism, without a trace of genius being left? the memory of their ancient splendor is perpetuated by a few monuments only, of the arts, which have withstood the depredations of time, and remain to be seen in dreary deserts.

While genius and talents are respected, rewarded, and promoted in a country, the arts and sciences improve, and the wealth and power of the nation increase, but no longer.

What are the reasons why Great Britain, with a population of nine millions, in a territory so circumscribed, has become so powerful? Why does the productive labor of her subjects exceed that of a neighboring nation, with more than treble the population? Why is she enabled to send her manufactures into every market of the known world, making every nation tributary, and dependant on her, while her navy rides triumphantly in every sea, committing what depredations she pleases? It is owing totally to the flourishing state of the arts, and the use of labor-saving machines, by which one man is enabled to perform as much as ten or twenty; and this state of the arts, is owing entirely to their sound policy in offering greater encouragement to men of genius, than is held forth by other nations. What stronger proof of this can there be than the emigration of men of genius from other countries, even this, to theirs; other countries become the nursery of geniuses, who are transplanted for the benefit of Great Britain. Although Great Britain secures in the first instance, to inventors of useful improvements, the exclusive right for fourteen years only, yet she has never refused to extend the term, according to the nature of the case, to fourteen, eighteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-five, or thirty years, as will appear in her statutes at large. Fourteen years in that country is worth accepting, while it is understood, that if the patentee survives, he may have the addition of fourteen, or perhaps thirty years. Now what has this pre-eminence in power cost the nation? What have her subjects paid for all the luxuries which they enjoy above those of other nations? We answer, not one cent! She has refrained a little longer only, from lopping the branches, and plucking the flowers,

of the essential plant, allowing it to grow, to gain strength, and produce fruit. Her subjects, and others, of inventive genius, have elevated her to the high ground on which she stands. An equal encouragement from this government to its citizens of inventive genius, will turn the tide, and enable us to deliver ourselves from her tyranny and oppression.

Why are not the savages as thickly settled, as well fed, cloathed, and sheltered by comfortable dwellings, as civilised nations, but because they have not the use of the arts and sciences, the productions of men of genius, and which are the basis of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures? Iron must be extracted from the ore by art, and converted into steel, before the plough and other instruments of husbandry, can be made for cultivating the soil. Without agriculture, there would be no use for manufactures and commerce; neither could man live to engage in them, for as the arts declined, their numbers would diminish to the few that could subsist on the simple productions of nature, suffering the most abject misery, and dying for want of subsistence; the strong only surviving the weaker, until degenerate man could scarcely find his fellow in the barren waste.

It has long been admitted as truth, that he who discovers means to cause two blades of grass, or spears of corn, to grow where but one hitherto grew, has rendered more real service to his country, and is deserving of greater reward, than the greatest warrior or statesman. It follows then, that those who have capacity and perseverance sufficient to discover, and put into operation, new and useful improvements in the arts, are most worthy of respect, and accordingly they have been rewarded, in a greater or less degree by every wise nation, which has risen to wealth, and power.

Shall America, the asylum of the persecuted from every nation, where the mind, freed from the shackles of tyranny and despotism, has liberty to expand and improve, be the only rising civilised country in the world where genius shall be oppressed and held in contempt, and the heavenly gift be despised as a burden by those who have received it? It is too true as said by Doctor Franklin, "A man's useful inventions subjects him to insult, robbery, and abuse."

It has been a proverb, that "an ingenious man can never be rich." The idea of ingenuity keeping a man poor is absurd; but it is true that the legislature of

this country decrees he shall be poor, by declaring, that the property which he acquires shall become common to all, at the expiration of fourteen years. Under such a discouragement, no prudent ingenious man will spend his time, labor, &c. to procure such property, but applies himself to acquire that which the laws secure to him and his heirs forever; thus his industry, aided by his ingenuity, enables him soon to become rich.

The too sanguine imprudent ingenious man only attempts to make improvements in the arts, and to acquire property which is to become common often before he can possess it; his prudent friends deem him to have entered the direct road to ruin, they impede and harrass him, hoping to reclaim him; he is despised, insulted, and abused; the many unforeseen difficulties he meets with, reduces him to poverty; but if he succeeds in making a useful improvement likely to become profitable, and obtains a patent, a new set of difficulties are produced, many then falsely claim it, and if he has any property left, it must be sacrificed to defend his patent right, or it will be evaded with impunity. Witness the cotton gin, the patent right of which is the only one that is likely to make the inventor rich in this country; yet so many have been the difficulties and embarrassments thrown in his way, that it has become a question whether he will be an equal gainer by it, with those who use it; for it has raised the price of their lands to double, and the planter is enabled to raise and prepare for market, by the aid of this machine, as much cotton as all his force of hands could gin during the year without it. Was the country to be pressed by war, until the treasury should be exhausted, and the government be obliged to recur to a loan, where could they apply more successfully than to this very cotton gin, which by that time will have made the planter so rich, that they will be able each to subscribe at least one hundred thousand dollars. They will not think of calling on the inventor for his subscription, as in England: where such an application was made to a patentee, he subscribed one hundred thousand pounds sterling; the bearer observed that perhaps he had annexed one cypher more than he intended; he answered, let it stand as it is; the nation delights to see their inventors become rich, they know the source from which their wealth and power flow. But here no prudent man can be induced to lend his money, either to share a part of a patent right, or to defend it, because he calculates that the term of fourteen years will

expire before it will be productive. Weary and perplexed with grievances like these, the exertions of the inventor cease—his patent expires—he is disgusted at the injustice of his country, and dies poor and broken hearted.

Wise men naturally shun what they have known to injure others; therefore such policy, and such patent systems, will tend to bring genius into still greater contempt, and the time may come, when Americans will be as notorious for their ignorance and stupidity, as they now are celebrated for the copious flow of genius exhibited in the many useful improvements, made while excited to action by a groundless hope. The tide has already turned, and the expiration of every patent term will accelerate its motion, until the source be exhausted.

The continental convention that framed the constitution of the United States, was convinced of the good policy of rewarding men for making useful discoveries, when they delegated to Congress the power to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times, to authors and inventors, the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries. Here they seem also to acknowledge the right of the inventor to his mental property, but have delegated to Congress the power to secure to the inventor, for limited times only, the exclusive right to his own inventions, his own property, in order to promote the progress of science and useful arts. What sort of right is this, which is entitled to be secured for a limited time only? Does it mean that we have no right? Had the community any right to an invention which never had existence? If not, why not delegate to Congress the power to secure the right forever, to this, as well as any other property? If the inventor has any right to his inventions as soon as he discovers them, it is a good one, or he has none; and if he has none, surely no one else can have any. It was power which operated. Had the convention delegated to Congress the power to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing to inventors of useful improvements, their heirs and assigns forever, the exclusive right to the same, protecting them in the full enjoyment and possession thereof, as fully and exclusively as any other property is protected for its rightful owners—this would have been worthy of that great and honorable body, that was engaged in exploding political errors, and making the greatest political reformation, perhaps ever made by any number of men.

Congress, in pursuence of the power to them delegated, passed the act, entitled "An act to promote the progress of useful arts;" intending no doubt to excite genius to action, by securing what was then conceived to be an ample compensation to those who should discover useful improvements; but the patent term has proved too short in this country—thus their benevolent intentions are, in most cases, frustrated.

It is true, the inventor is not compelled to communicate his discovery, but is offered the protection of government for fourteen years, in case he makes a full disclosure of the secrets of his discovery, that the public may be in full possession thereof, at the end of his patent term. If the inventor thinks the terms unequal, he may refuse to accept them, keep his discovery secret, and it may lie dormant, and die with him. Government offers no value for the most valuable property. Their offer amounts simply to this:—Communicate to us the secrets of your discovery, and it shall not become common before the end of fourteen years; you may enjoy it exclusively for that space of time, and we will protect you in the enjoyment, but at your own expense, for you shall pay for protection as well as any other individual. The inventor thinks the terms unequal—he refuses to make inventions—improvements cease, and all the attendant evil consequences, which we think unnecessary to enumerate, follow.

How much better policy would it be in government, to say to the inventor, What does not exist, cannot be the property either of the nation, or any individual; therefore, if you will exert your talents, and employ your labor and time, to make improvements, they will be your own property, your heirs and assigns, forever, shall be protected in the exclusive enjoyment thereof. This would be no more than doing perfect justice between the public and the individual. If this cannot be done, some good reasons would tend to convince the aggrieved, and might make them satisfied with less, say for and during the life of the inventor, and his heirs and assigns, to the third generation; or for fifty years certain, to him, his heirs, and assigns, and for and during his own life, if he survived the term of fifty years. Any thing less, would be to say,—We want your property, and you must deliver it to us, for it is better that you should suffer poverty and distress, than that the whole community should purchase the use of your inventions; God has given you a talent to

serve us, therefore it is not your own. Such arguments as these, backed by power, always carry conviction to the heart—yet all the power on earth cannot compel a man to make a useful discovery, or improvement, in science or art. Where despotism has ruled, genius has fled, and science and art declined.

Mental property, such as new and useful discoveries and improvements in science and the arts, is generally acquired by great expense of money, and corporeal labor, as well as by the most intense study and exertion of the mind, which requires the greatest excitement to action. The close application necessary to investigate principles, arrange their order in the fabrication of new machines, or compositions of matter, to improve the arts and sciences, operates powerfully to enfeeble the human frame, destroy the constitution, increase the miseries, and shorten the term of life. Therefore mental property may truly be said to be acquired at double expense, and ought to be doubly secured by the laws, and is as justly and bona fide the property of those who thus acquire it, as any real or personal property can be.

Will any one say the inventor monopolized his discovery? Was it common stock before he discovered it? Can a thing which does not exist, be common stock? If it can, will not the same principles apply as with other property? Will not the first discoverer and possessor be the right owner, as is the case with vacant lands? He who discovers a piece of vacant land, (which is common stock) takes possession of and improves it, is esteemed the right owner; it is secured to him, his heirs and assigns, forever, on his paying the sum stipulated by law, for such protection—although it has not cost him one hundredth part the labor and expense, nor rendered his country one thousandth part the benefit—yet this man is not thought guilty of monopoly, although this act looks much more like it, than the other. Man has lived without the use of such inventions as are yet to be made, and brought into use, and he may live hereafter as well without them as he has done; therefore, he who makes a useful discovery, wrongs no man; it is his own property, subject to be taxed as well as any other property, and should be secured to him by the laws. It would certainly be the best policy; for of what benefit can a man's inventions be to a nation if they lie dormant and die with him.

No nation on earth has ever been truly wise in this respect. Great have been their sufferings, in all ages of the world, on that account; for the suppression of genius is

the true cause that impedes the progress of science and the arts, and the reason why whole nations have been held in ignorance, and suffered poverty, from generation to generation. If governments will try the experiment of acting justly towards their most useful citizens, they will find themselves great gainers by it; for the way to make things cheap, is to make them plenty. Employ the inventive genius—by rewarding them, the arts will flourish, and manufactures will be plenty and cheap.

It would be easy to demonstrate, that the inventions already made in the United States, if put fully in operation, would increase the productive labor of its citizens, more than to the amount of the whole annual revenue. It must be bad policy then, to withhold the encouragement necessary to bring them into use.

The great improvement on the manufacturing of flour, lessens the labor fully one half, does the work much better, and prevents waste—and is worth to each mill annually six hundred dollars. We may safely calculate that it will be used in two thousand mills; the saving then of this single invention, will amount, annually, to the immense sum of one million, two hundred thousand dollars. Many others might be mentioned, that will be more extensively useful. What is the reward the inventor has received? He has held the exclusive right to make, use, or sell to be used, for fourteen years: but besides the expense and labor of compiling and publishing an entire new work, to explain his improvements, which engaged him three years, (and which alone would have proved one source of ruin to himself, had he not the privilege of renewing his copy right for another term of fourteen years,) he or his agents were constantly engaged during the term, traversing the whole United States, at the expense of 10 or 15,000 dollars, to make his improvements known, and instruct the millwrights and millers how to construct and use them. His money was expended as fast as he could collect it, and just as his patent was ready to be productive, without expense, the term expired. His reliance, however, on the justice of his country, to extend his patent term, induced him to expend the small clear proceeds of his patent, in defraying the expense of another invention—an improvement on steam engines—which promises to be still more extensively useful to his country, but perhaps, injurious to himself, during his patent term. He petitioned Congress, for an extension of his patent term, which was about to expire, but has not yet succeeded. He is left in worse circum-

stances than if he had never made an improvement, and at an advanced age, to encounter new difficulties. Conscious however of having improved his talent and served his country much better than they enabled him to do, he hopes, at the close of his career, to say (with Doctor Priestly,) that "he believes that he has enjoyed life as well as most men;" that his greatest mortification has been that his country did not employ him in the line in which he was best qualified to serve them. But Oh! how would he glory in being able to say with truth, that he believed he had been instrumental in drawing the attention of the supreme legislature of his country to the cultivation of the essential plant, to foster the genius of his country, promoting science and useful arts, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce—and which would enable his country to rise in power, wealth, and dignity, to a degree surpassing every other country in the world. But he has to lament, that, for the sake of his rising family, he did not employ his talents and industry in the acquirement of property which the laws would secure to him and them, forever; and stop short, as he had in full view the greatest discoveries of his life, to renounce, with disgust, all further pursuit of new improvements—to teach his children to avoid them as ruinous, and deem the gift a burden, or a curse, to those who receive it—to file specifications, of his important discoveries in the patent office, to prevent them from being lost, in case of his death, and wait the time when his country shall see their true interest, and enable him, or his heirs, to put them in operation. This single case, as far as it shall be known, is sufficient to damp the ardour of genius in this country, and it will be handed down from one generation to another, as a clog and impediment to improvements.

Almost every other patentee will be in a similar situation, as their patent terms expire, and few can be supposed to have adopted the same measure, to prevent their discoveries from being lost; yet, if you will search the patent office, there may be found patents issued for valuable improvements, which were never put in operation; specifications of some of the greatest discoveries ever conceived by human ingenuity—but no patents applied for. These may lie dormant for centuries to come, before any one may be found that will put them in operation. No stronger proof can be produced of the impolicy of our patent system. Secure mental property to its right owners, for a sufficient length of time, and their inventions

will be put in use ; thus the whole civilized world may receive the benefits one hundred years sooner.

Under the present system, none but trifling improvements will be made, such as may accidentally strike the mind of the artist, on his own business, and will cost but little to put in operation. But such as require an extensive knowledge of mechanical powers, and full investigations of the principles of nature, intense study, close application, long perseverance, and great expense to bring to perfection and use—such as would be of great utility to the nation at large, will be avoided and abandoned as ruinous. Men the most capable of making useful discoveries have prudence to avoid such unprofitable studies. Hence it always was the weakest of men who engaged therein, to their ruin. Improvements are confined to such as would be made without any patent system ; so that the present system is worse than none, and will in its operation for the future, prove highly injurious to this country.

Let us for a moment, suppose a government has adopted the principle of securing mental property to the inventor or discoverer, his heirs and assigns, forever. It immediately enlists into its service all the men of real genius and great talents, the most prudent, and capable, as well as those of lesser abilities. The fair prospect gives energy to the ingenious man's mind, he improves in mental abilities, investigates the principles of nature, and if he discovers a principle, applicable to some improvement, so as to enable one man to do the work of six or ten, he perseveres until he succeeds in putting it in operation : He is respected, because deemed to be in possession of that which will procure him wealth ; honored, because he has made none poor, but on the contrary, enriches his country, by enriching himself : his fame spreads wide, others catch the sacred flame, and engage in the same pursuit, with like success—genius, no longer held in contempt, is esteemed, because it leads to wealth ; persecution, abuse and robbery cease, because means of defence appear. It will no longer be the interest of the prudent man to let his discovery lie dormant until a more convenient time ; and if the inventor has not the pecuniary means of putting his improvement into operation, he can obtain them by selling a part of his patent right—the present time will always be the proper season to commence operations, because the means will be at command. The most useful class of citizens would be raised from the indigent and

oppressed state under which they labor, to respect, opulence, and comfort; and the nation would be enlightened, enriched, and made powerful by the exertion of their talents.

The tide of genius flowing over our happy country, turning dry and barren wastes into fruitful fields, and enlivened by the cheering sun, refreshing rains, and gentle zephyrs of possession and enjoyment of rights, would bring forth flowers and fruits of useful discoveries and improvements in science and the arts, in abundance, which are now locked in embryo, by the cold north winds of disappointment, poverty, and despair.

The arts and sciences would improve with greater rapidity than they ever did in any country, and the nation rise in power, wealth, and enjoyments, faster than any nation ever did on earth.

Commerce would ascend our rivers, where currents have hitherto baffled all the known arts, and glide by navigable canals, through hills and over dales, in places and directions now conceived to be impracticable. The elements would be made subservient to our ease and comfort, in many ways yet unknown.

The imperfect state of our ideas disables us from forming an adequate conception of the great change that would be produced in the state of civilized society, or the rapidity with which it would be effected. But we may say, that more improvements would be made in half a century, than ever has, or will be made, under such a system as the present, in a thousand years.

RECAPITULATION.

We have endeavoured to shew :

- 1st. That genius is the source of all the comforts which we enjoy above that of savage nations; that the wealth, power, and population, is eventually proportionate to the reward genius receives in a country—that therefore, the regulating and securing that reward is, perhaps, the most important subject that can engage legislative attention.
- 2nd. That men of genius, in this country, are subjected to a servile, abject dependance on the will of the supreme legislature, for the privilege of enjoying exclusively, the fruits of their own labor; receiving as a gift, what others claim, hold, and enjoy as their inherent right—which dependance tends to destroy the energy



of their souls, and depress the mind below the level of dignified human nature.

3d. That under such discouragements, all prudent men refuse to employ their talents and labor to acquire property, secured by law for fourteen years only. Thus their country lose the benefit, and they suffer the mortification of being compelled to refrain from doing the good they wish, and conceive themselves capable of—that those, whose prudence has not been sufficient to restrain them from engaging in the pursuit of such property, have thereby been generally reduced to poverty and distress.

4th. That men of genius are as justly entitled to protection in the full and exclusive enjoyment of the fruits of the labors of the mind, of their bodily labor, money, and time, expended in acquiring mental property, as any are in the possession of real or personal property: 1, Because what they acquire never was the right of the nation, or any individual; none but the first discoverer can have any right. 2, What they do acquire, often costs them one hundred times as dear as real property costs others. 3, Their discoveries are generally one thousand times the benefit to the nation—they enrich the nation that permits them to enrich themselves.

5th. That the public good requires the prayer of their petition to be granted, as the only means in the power of Congress, to promote science and the useful arts, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce—the power, wealth, and enjoyments of the nation—and would enable a much greater population to subsist comfortably. The measure has been strongly recommended, not only by our beloved Washington, but by many other great and enlightened statesmen.

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